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Construction Industry News from City Hall

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Kurt Schroeder*

MEMBRANE PENETRATIONS

Some questions have been asked regarding the penetration of one side of a fire-resistive wall.

Membrane penetrations of fire-resistive walls requiring protected openings shall comply with Section 709.6 and Section 709.7 of the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Building Code.

Some penetrations are allowed without a rated fire-stopping material in the annular space around such penetrations. Openings for steel outlet boxes are such, provided that they are no more than 16 square inches in area and the aggregate area of the boxes do not exceed 100 square inches for any 100 square feet of wall area. Outlet boxes on opposite sides of a fire-resistive wall shall be separated by a horizontal distance of not less than 24 inches. Membrane penetrations for electrical outlet boxes of any material are permitted, provided that such boxes are tested for use in fire-resistive assemblies and installed in accordance with the tested assembly.

The annular space created by the penetration of a fire sprinkler shall be permitted to be unprotected, provided such space is covered by a metal escutcheon plate. Noncombustible penetrating items shall not be connected to combustible materials on both sides of the membrane unless it can be confirmed that the fire-resistive integrity of the wall is maintained in accordance with UBC Standard 7-1.

Jim Cranford, C.B.C. Building Codes Administrator

ATTENTION Electrical Contractors

The 3 digit code number for Electric Slab Rough changed from **235** to **236**. This change was necessary due to a conflict in numbers with the Building section. This is effective immediately.

WORKING CLEARANCES AROUND PANELS

Article 110 of the 1999 National Electrical Code (NEC) contains requirements regarding working clearances around Switchboards, Panelboards, Distribution Boards and Motor Control Centers. Section 110-26(f) of this article states that this electrical equipment must be located in dedicated spaces and protected from damage.

For indoor installations, the **dedicated equipment space** shall comply with the following:

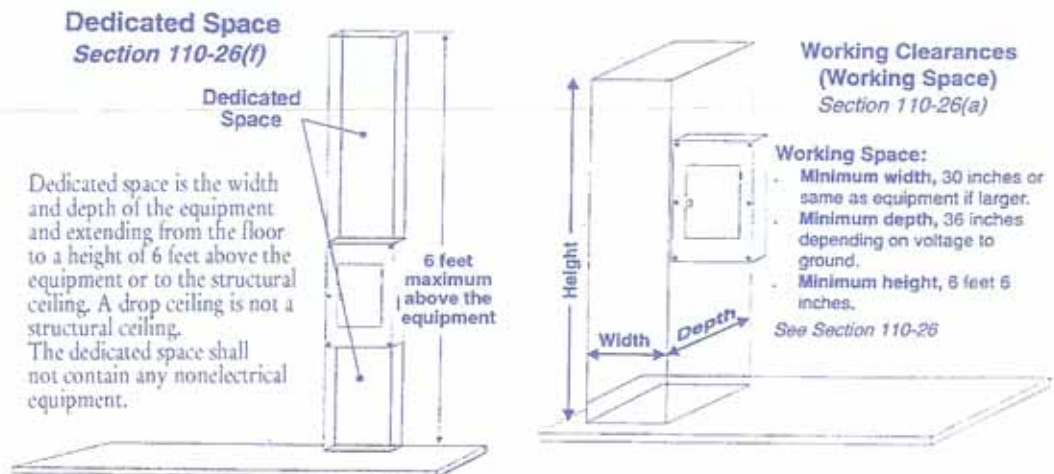
- (a) **Dedicated Electrical Space (definition).** The space equal to the width and depth of the electrical equipment and extending from the floor to a height of 6 feet above the equipment or to the structural ceiling, whichever is lower, shall be dedicated to the electrical installation. **No piping, ducts, or equipment foreign to the electrical installation shall be located in this zone.**

NOTE: A dropped, suspended, or similar ceiling that does not add strength to the building structure shall not be considered a structural ceiling.

Required Working Space. The working space for electrical equipment operating at 600 volts, nominal, or less to ground and likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance shall comply with the following:

- (1) **Depth of Working Space.** The depth of the working space in the direction of access to live parts shall not be less than indicated in Table 110-26(a), (Minimum of 30 inches for 0-150 volts and minimum of 30 inches to 48 inches for 151-600 volts to ground - depending on the conditions described in Table 110-26(a)).
- (2) **Width of Working Space.** The width of the working space in front of the electric equipment shall be the width of the equipment or 30 inches, whichever is greater. In all cases, the work space shall permit at least a 90 degree opening of equipment doors or hinged panels.
- (3) **Height of Working Space.** The work space shall be clear and extend from the grade, floor, or platform to the height of the equipment or 6 1/2 feet, whichever is greater.

ILLUSTRATIONS



Wayne L. Bolen, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Electrical / Elevator

PLUMBING and SEWER CONTRACTORS

On December 6, 2000 the Board of Appeals of Plumbers and Gas Fitters reviewed data for the "Trenchless" piping system, TRIC pipe. The Board of Appeals liked what they saw but wanted to see the system installed first hand. On January 25, 2001 the board saw an on site demonstration here in Wichita. At that time they voted to allow this procedure and material. If you want to install this system and need all the information, you can find it on the internet at: www.trenchless.com. You may also contact me at 268-4471. It would be to lengthy to put the information and installation procedures in this article.

Please NOTE: The basic requirements are as follows: Material required is Polyethylene 3408 SDR 17, joints must be molded rubber coupling joints, shielded coupling joints and heat fusion joints. A video of the original sewer line and a video of the new sewer line will be required. The inspector will need to observe you video taping the new sewer after it is installed.

SEWER CONTRACTORS

Please remember to call your inspector in the morning between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on the day you have an inspection scheduled and let the inspector know what time you would like your inspection. This **MUST** be done before the inspectors leave for the field. If you fail to notify your inspector, your job will automatically be scheduled for 3:30 p.m. that day or it will be scheduled for the following morning.

MECHANICAL

When replacing a gas fired heating unit, be sure and check for gas leaks after you have connected the unit. We have had a flood of fittings and unions leaking after the service person leaves. The inspector usually finds it and calls the contractor to correct the situation. This looks bad for us all. Please soap test **ALL** connections.

Dan Leidy, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Plumbing / Mechanical

PUBLIC HEARING

A code review committee comprised of architects, engineers, contractors and building officials was formed last June and have been reviewing the International Building Code. The code review committee has completed their review and are proposing certain amendments to continue continuity in the application and interpretation of those code provisions.

The Office of Central Inspection will be holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the International Residential Code and the International Building Code on February 28, 2001. The hearing will be from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in the Board Room which is located on the first floor of City Hall, 455 N. Main, Wichita Kansas. Prior to the public hearing, Mr. Doug Thornburg, Former ICBO Vice-President, Codes Consultant, and Seminar Instructor will provide an overview of the highlights of the IBC. Prior to this hearing you may contact Richard Chamberlin or Paul Hays in the Office of Central Inspection and request a copy of the proposed amendments.

Copies of the proposed amendments will also be available at the hearing. All architects, engineers, contractors and interested parties are free to attend and review the proposed amendments.

Richard Chamberlin, Plans Examiner

Reminder of the next holiday

The Office of Central Inspection will not be open **Monday, February 19, 2001** for Presidents Day. The next holiday after that will not be until Memorial Day, **Monday, May 28, 2001.**



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